

Editorial.

The next number will appear about the first of December. It will be a Special Bulletin on the birds of Berwyn, Penna., a bird census of a section one square mile in extent. The promised stretch of an interesting episode in the life of Alexander Wilson, has not been lost sight of; it will appear later. Enough special and co-operative study matter has accumulated to make several Special Bulletins a probability, and the Officers and Committees of the W. O. C. will continue to collect data with this object in view. Doubtless other schemes of co-operative observation will unfold before the advent of another season, as the interest seems commensurate to the outlay. We would call the attention of our Active Members to the President's notice on another page.

It should be a matter of congratulation to ornithologists of moderate means, that a new edition of Audubon's *Birds of America* is now contemplated, by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., the well known publishers of Boston. It is proposed to produce a facsimile of the entire text of the rare and expensive edition of 1840-44, by photographic process. We learn that the encouragement received has not been all that had been anticipated and that further interest must be shown in order to insure the successful publication of this edition. It is to be hoped that enough advance subscriptions will be received, and instead of Audubon's being one of the most inaccessible of works, the low price place it within the reach of all.

The sale of the splendid collection of birds' eggs, nests and skins, owned by Miss Jean Bell, Ridley Park, Penna., to Hon. John Lewis Childs, Floral Park, N. Y., removes from the neighborhood the largest and finest private collection of North American bird eggs in the world.

868 species and subspecies are represented in the 30,000 eggs and 1000 nests. In the forming of this magnificent collection, the following were purchased and absorbed intact; the collections of Josiah Hoopes, Isaac Reiff, Harry R. Jamison, Harry G. Parker, and 1000 selected sets from Samuel B. Ladd, all of

Pennsylvania; also the collection of J. W. Preston, Iowa; Henry R. Taylor, Chester Barlow and H. W. Carriger, of California; Watson Bishop and Harry Austin, of Nova Scotia; and Joseph Grinnell's Alaskan collection. Some idea of its richness and extent may be had by the enumeration of a few examples: 3 sets Cory's Least Bittern, 15 sets Sandhill Crane, 1 set Solitary Sandpiper, 3 sets California Vulture, 90 sets Sharp shinned Hawk, 30 sets Golden Eagle, 22 sets Prairie Falcon, a large series of nests, eggs and skins of Everglade, Swallow-tailed and White-tailed Skite, 1 set of Spotted Owl, 5 sets Clark's Nutcracker; in short everything procurable, and is said to have necessitated the expenditure of over \$25,000, in actual cash, occupying a building erected expressly for the purpose.

Announcement has been made by the Smithsonian Institution, that Dr. W. L. Ralph, Honorary Curator, of the Section of Birds' Eggs, in the National Museum, has undertaken the continuation of the "Life Histories of North American Birds" commenced by the late Major Charles Bendire. The next volume will begin with the Grosbeaks and end with the Vireo and Bahama Honey Creeper. Blanks for co-operative investigation are being sent out.

The time is close at hand when bird study in many sections of the country will be spoken of as a passing fad, a term too often applicable to the collecting of eggs. The publication of that which *Our Animal Friends* terms "mawkish sentimentalism" will sooner or later be fraught with evil to the cause which the writer may wish to advance. Happily, the judicious policy of those whom we look up to as leaders in the movement toward popularizing the science, has kept the rising stream within its legitimate channel—with a few notable exceptions. Wherever the exception, it does not apply to the numerous periodicals one must take in order to keep abreast of the times. Never have we had so many, so varied and interesting series of the ornithological magazines as at the present time, each with its distinctive features and characteristics. The *Auk* leading, general in character, but withal possessing a strong New England flavor. The *Osprey* with its biographies, rambles afield, etc.,

sometimes brilliant, sometimes ponderous. *Bird Lore*, elegant, typographically perfect, an avowed bird protector; a boon to the beginner. The *Condor*, lone representative of the Pacific slope, an "over-flow meeting" of the *Auk*. *Birds and Nature* with its beautiful colored pictures of great assistance to both teacher and scholar. *American Ornithology*, bright and artistic. The *Oologist*, the mecca of all oologists and exchangers. The *Journal of Maine Ornithological Society*, of more than local interests. The *Wilson Bulletin* with its schemes of co-operative investigation, bird census and horizons. Many other papers and magazines regularly devote from half a column to many pages to the subject, besides the inevitable "mushrooms" which cannot be taken seriously.

Dr. R. W. Shufeldt has removed from Washington, D. C., to New York City. His address is 502 West 142nd St., Hamilton Place.

President's Address.

The Wilson Ornithological Chapter was organized as an association of ornithologists, who desired to do original work on a co-operative basis. It has published bulletins which we feel were worth all they cost and it has served as a training school for a number of young ornithologists.

Field work is naturally the most available line of study for our members and our bulletins are best known as field study publications. Under the head of field studies, we do not, however, include simple descriptions of collecting trips or collections. Collecting can never be to the investigator anything more than a means towards an end and collections are of little scientific value except as they furnish material for scientific studies that are of themselves worth while.

We have several committees engaged in special lines of field work on the co-operative plan. Every member is urged to report to the chairmen of the various committees his observations, even if they are few. Members are also urged to extend the usefulness of these committees by obtaining new members,